



# ***Library Organizations***

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State and national library organizations are important not only to the library and director but also to the board member. These associations provide valuable programs, publications, and workshops to help the trustee and staff perform more effectively in the local library. They have the same basic mission as local libraries--to provide high quality, low cost library services to the public.

Through the exchange of ideas and experiences among trustees and librarians from many libraries, solutions can often be found for local problems. The associations work effectively for library legislation, endorsing or influencing action affecting the welfare of libraries.

In publicizing libraries at the state and national level, the associations aid local libraries in their efforts to increase public awareness of services and needs.

For these reasons, board members should have a basic understanding of related state and national organizations to be able to coordinate local library efforts with those organizations. The following are some of the organizations with which your library will be affiliated.

The Indiana Library and Historical Department (IC 4-23-7) consists of two agencies, the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Historical Bureau. The former has responsibility for library service throughout the state and the latter for the publication of state historical materials.

It is a common misunderstanding that the Indiana State Library is somehow the "mother" of Indiana libraries, the regulator and governor of all libraries in Indiana. In fact, the state library relationship with local libraries is much more oriented toward being a resource and providing service and assistance.

The Indiana State Library is charged to develop and provide library service to state government, its branches, its departments and its officials and employees; to provide for the individual citizens of the state the specialized library services not generally appropriate,

***Service***

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***Indiana Library  
& Historical  
Department  
IC 4-23-7***

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economical or available in other libraries of the state; to encourage and support the development of the library profession; and to strengthen services of all types of publicly and privately supported special, school, academic and public libraries.

The Indiana Library and Historical Board governs the State Library and is empowered to receive and administer state and federal aid for the improvement and development of library and historical services in Indiana. Planning authority is also vested in the Indiana Library and Historical Board, subject to final approval by the governor.

The Indiana State Library (ISL) is composed of eleven divisions:

- Administrative Division
- Catalog Division
- Circulation Support
- Genealogy
- Indiana Division
- Library Development Office
- Management Information Service
- Manuscripts/Rare Books
- Professional Development Office
- Reference & Government Services
- Talking Books & Braille Library

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## ***ISLAC***

The Indiana State Library Advisory Council (ISLAC) (IC 4-23-7.1-1(1); IC 4-23-7.1-39) is appointed by the Indiana Library and Historical Board to advise the board about development, administration, and evaluation of a state plan for libraries in Indiana, and to review applications and make recommendations about the use of federal Library Services Technology Act funds.

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The Indiana Library Federation (ILF) promotes library and information services in the State of Indiana, including but not limited to public awareness and policy formulation, governance, continuing education, recognition, communication, legislative advocacy, professional and technical support, planning, professional development, networking and coalitions, and intellectual freedom.

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**ILF**

941 E. 86th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
(317) 257-2040  
[www.ilfonline.org](http://www.ilfonline.org)

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The Indiana Library Trustee Association (ILTA) is an association for public library board members, within the Indiana Library Federation. Board members are automatically members of ILTA when their library pays dues to ILTA. The purpose of ILTA is to help board members promote libraries and library services and provide continuing education to library board members so they can do their job better.

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The American Library Association (ALA) is a membership organization comprised of libraries, librarians, library board members, and other interested persons from every state and many other countries. The association promotes high-quality library and information services in the United States. The ALA also supports the Office for Intellectual Freedom which will assist local libraries fighting censorship.

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**ALA**

50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 944-6780  
(800) 545-2433  
[www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

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United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations is a division of ALA. United for Libraries has the specific responsibility for educating through a continuing and comprehensive program for Library Trustees to enable them to discharge their responsibilities in a manner best fitted to benefit the public and the libraries they represent. Trustee members of United for Libraries must be members of ALA.

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**United for Libraries**

50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 280-2161  
(800) 545-2433  
[www.ala.org/united](http://www.ala.org/united)

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**Friends of the  
Library**

Friends of the Library are volunteer organizations formed in local communities by citizens who wish to assist the local library. Typical functions of Friends of the Library groups include:

- economic aid to the library--fund raising or purchase of materials for the library.
- volunteers to assist library staff.
- grass roots support for political action in support of the library, and
- assistance in fighting attempts at censorship of library materials.

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**FOIL**

**c/o ILF**

941 E. 86th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
(317) 257-2040  
[www.ilfonline.org](http://www.ilfonline.org)

Friends of Indiana Libraries (FOIL) is an organization operating as a clearinghouse of information about the activities of local Friends of the Library groups. FOIL can also help local communities establish a Friends of the Library group and coordinate a network of volunteers working for passage of library legislation. Individuals and local Friends groups may become members of FOIL.

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**Notes:**